REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, the specification has been amended, an Abstract has been provided and claim 3 has been amended to delete the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on <u>December 27, 2004</u>, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. PTO, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Ingrid Mittendorf

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